



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CALIFORNIA VETERANS BENEFIT FROM USDVA CONTRACT TO IMPROVE WEST LOS ANGELES FACILITY

**SACRAMENTO, NOV. 4, 2005** -- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has awarded a \$2.9 million contract to a Marina del Rey architectural and engineering firm to begin designing seismic improvements to the USDVA's West Los Angeles medical center.

"These improvements will greatly benefit California's veterans, especially in light of the fact that we are building a new State of California Veterans Home on the grounds next to the USDVA's West Los Angeles facility," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Knowing that these facilities will be safer in earthquakes will give peace of mind to all California veterans who receive health care at these sites."

"I also commend the USDVA, now entering its 75<sup>th</sup> year of service to our nation's veterans, for looking to the future and ensuring a safe environment at the West Los Angeles medical center for its medical staff and the many veterans who receive treatment there," added Governor Schwarzenegger.

Lee, Burkhart and Liu of Marina del Rey received a contract for architectural and engineering services to prepare construction documents. The project involves seismic corrections to the 937,000-square-foot Buildings 500/501 at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. The project calls for constructing a braced-frame system for the six-story steel structure.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs provides outreach to veterans reentering civilian life after having answered America's call to military service, by helping them claim their earned veterans benefits, provides low-cost loans to acquire homes and farms, and when the time comes, provides aged and disabled veterans rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes.

Last year, the USDVA spent more than \$6 billion to provide health care, disability compensation, memorial benefits and other services to more than 2.3 million California veterans. The USDVA operates 10 major medical centers in California, with outpatient clinics and Vet Centers in many communities.

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*Note to editors: This News Release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via e-mail from [jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:jaime.arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).*